

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN JULY 2005

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in July of 64,500 metric tons (t) was unchanged from that in June and about 6% more than that in July 2004, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Estimated smelter production of 29,200 t was about 23% more than that in June and unchanged from that in July 2004. Apparent consumption of 81,100 t was about 8% lower than that in June and 14% lower than that in July 2004.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price for North American Special High Grade zinc decreased to 57.96 cents per pound in July. The price was 6% (3.77 cents per pound) lower than that in June but 16% (7.88 cents per pound) higher than that in July 2004. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price decreased to \$1,194.08 per metric ton, a 6% decrease compared with the June price, but 21% higher than that

in July 2004. During July, LME zinc stocks dropped by 29,650 t to 581,525 t.

The National Defense Stockpile aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in July, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was about 2,600 t (2,865 short tons), with an approximate value of \$3.11 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005, Stockpile announces zinc BOA sales for July 2005: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, August 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004	2005			
	January- December	May	June	July	January- July
Production:					
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	739,000	55,400	67,100 ^r	66,900	429,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	713,000	53,300	64,600 ^r	64,500	413,000
Smelter, refined zinc	320,000	23,900 ^e	23,700 ^e	29,200 ^e	173,000 ^e
Consumption:					
Refined zinc, reported	421,000	33,800	34,100 ^r	31,300	234,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	727	61	61	61	424
Zinc-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	191,000	15,900	15,900	15,900	111,000
Copper-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	176,000	14,700	14,700	14,700	103,000
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	1,430	120	120	120	837
Total ^e	790,000	64,500	64,800 ^r	62,000	450,000
Apparent consumption, metal ²	1,160,000	82,900	87,900	81,100	595,000 ³
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:					
Producer ⁴	XX	7,470	6,670	6,390	XX
Consumer ⁵	XX	56,400	55,400	56,700	XX
Merchant	XX	10,200	10,200	10,200	XX
Total	XX	74,100	72,300	73,300	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	31,500	301	2,960	2,600	6,830
Imports for consumption:					
Refined (slab) zinc	812,000	62,500	52,900	NA	355,000 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	103,000	12,400	9,970	NA	52,400 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	231,000	21,200	19,300	NA	80,500 ⁶
Exports:					
Refined (slab) zinc	3,300	163	15	NA	564 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	14,400	1,310	1,150	NA	6,750 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	745,000	24,600	12,600	NA	114,000 ⁶
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	53,900	3,880	3,590	NA	25,500 ⁶
Price:					
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	\$1,047.35	\$1,243.23	\$1,275.33	\$1,194.08	\$1,280.20
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	52.47	60.46	61.73	57.96	62.24

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

³Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

⁴Data from U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

⁵Includes an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁶Includes data through June only.

TABLE 2
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES^{e, 1}

(Metric tons)

Month	Beginning stocks ²	Production	Shipments	Ending stocks ²
2004:				
July	6,340	29,200	29,200	6,390
August	6,390	29,300	29,300	6,370
September	6,370	24,100	23,400	7,020
October	7,020	23,800	23,700	7,070
November	7,070	23,500	23,800	6,780
December	6,780	20,200	20,500	6,430
January-December	XX	320,000	321,000	XX
2005:				
January	6,430	24,600	21,200	9,860
February	9,860	25,600	24,500	11,000
March	11,000	22,700	24,000	9,760
April	9,760	23,400	23,800	9,420
May	9,420	23,900	25,800	7,470
June	7,470	23,700	24,500	6,670
July	6,670	29,200	29,200	6,390
January-July	XX	173,000	173,000	XX

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes stocks held at locations other than smelters.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC
ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2004	2005			
	January- December ²	May	June	July ²	January- July
Galvanizing:					
Sheet and strip	477,000	34,100	35,700 ^r	34,400	246,000
Other	167,000	11,100	12,100	11,000	81,100
Total	644,000	45,200	47,800 ^r	45,400	327,000
Brass and bronze	188,000	13,300	14,400 ^r	11,000	92,500
Zinc-base alloy	244,000	17,800	18,800 ^r	18,000	128,000
Other uses ³	85,800	6,600	6,900	6,600	47,100
Grand total	1,160,000	82,900	87,900	81,100	595,000

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

³Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, castings, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4
AVERAGE MONTHLY ZINC PRICES¹

Period	North American ¢/lb.	LME ² cash	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
2004:			
July	50.08	44.81	987.94
August	49.44	44.24	975.39
September	49.23	44.22	974.83
October	53.31	48.28	1,064.49
November	54.81	49.68	1,095.18
December	58.53	53.52	1,179.83
January-December	52.47	47.51	1,047.35
2005:			
January	61.54	56.51	1,245.81
February	64.49	60.14	1,325.81
March	66.49	62.47	1,377.33
April	63.03	58.96	1,299.81
May	60.46	56.39	1,243.23
June	61.73	57.85	1,275.33
July	57.96	54.16	1,194.08
January-July	62.24	58.07	1,280.20

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2004		2005 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	June		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	3,300	\$5,330	15	\$25	564	\$1,100
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	745,000	413,000	12,600	5,860	114,000	47,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	53,900	48,300	3,590	3,560	25,500	26,900
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	7,640	13,500	815	1,540	4,680	9,480
Oxide (gross weight)	14,400	19,800	1,150	1,680	6,750	11,200
Chloride (gross weight)	1,870	2,200	182	198	1,140	1,370
Sulfate (gross weight)	3,060	1,860	357	227	1,610	1,030
Compounds, other (gross weight)	194	711	166	73	576	480

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for July 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

Material	2004		2005 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	June		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	812,000	\$888,000	52,900	\$67,200	355,000	\$460,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	231,000	98,700	19,300	8,290	80,500	54,100
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	10,800	7,740	529	421	4,040	3,460
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	24,800	40,200	1,500	2,800	10,300	18,800
Oxide (gross weight)	103,000	89,000	9,970	12,200	52,400	60,400
Chloride (gross weight)	705	863	80	77	328	577
Sulfate (gross weight)	29,100	14,000	2,460	1,310	15,700	8,270
Compounds, other (gross weight)	4,660	4,230	455	356	3,210	2,960

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for July 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Beginning inventory	Shipments	Ending inventory
2004:			
July	69,800	44	69,700
August	69,700	3,360	66,400
September	66,400	--	66,400
October	66,400	--	66,400
November	66,400	--	66,400
December	66,400	--	66,400
January-December	XX	31,500	XX
2005:			
January	66,400	20	66,300
February	66,300	738	65,600
March	65,600	--	65,600
April	65,600	220	65,400
May	65,400	301	65,100
June	65,100	2,960	62,100
July	62,100	2,600	59,500
January-July	XX	6,830	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Defense Logistics Agency.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
		June	Year to date		June	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	27,900	--	8,590	27,900	--	8,590
Ireland	17,700	4,290	8,700	17,700	4,290	8,700
Mexico	6,530	14,900	19,800	6,530	14,900	19,800
Peru	178,000	--	42,800	178,000	--	42,800
Other	877	82	593	877	82	593
Total	231,000	19,300	80,500	231,000	19,300	80,500
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	7,940	--	1	27,500	3,750	16,200
Brazil	26,400	--	18,900	26,400	51	19,000
Canada	501,000	37,400	255,000	501,000	37,400	255,000
China	35	--	--	16,500	--	876
Japan	--	--	--	690	--	--
Kazakhstan	2,310	--	--	2,310	--	--
Korea, Republic of	8,030	--	5,030	31,900	--	888
Mexico	123,000	11,700	61,700	123,000	11,700	61,700
Namibia	47,900	--	--	47,900	--	--
Peru	25,600	--	126	30,500	--	724
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	204	--	--	3,970	--	225
Total	743,000	49,100	341,000	812,000	52,900	355,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	16,100	1,230	7,530	16,100	1,230	7,530
Grand total	990,000	69,600	429,000	1,060,000	73,400	443,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	49,700	6,820	29,000	49,700	6,820	29,000
China	207	20	61	207	20	61
Italy	13,400	1,160	8,430	13,400	1,160	8,430
Japan	1,060	90	554	1,060	90	554
Mexico	33,200	1,390	11,200	33,200	1,390	11,200
Netherlands	4,700	454	2,710	4,700	454	2,710
Other	796	43	445	796	43	445
Total	103,000	9,970	52,400	103,000	9,970	52,400
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	10,800	529	4,040	10,800	529	4,040
Sheets	2,500	426	1,340	2,500	426	1,340
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	24,800	1,500	10,300	24,800	1,500	10,300

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data for July 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.